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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ZHEN, LI B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2194

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,400

Applicant(s)

CHENG ET AL.

Examiner

Li B. Zhen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 25 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 25 and 30 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 21, 25 and 30 are pending in the current application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 – 13, 15, 17, 21, 25 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication NO. US 2002/0099786 to Chun [cited in the previous office action] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,583 to Van Fleet.**

5. As to claim 1, Chun teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a first system management application of a set of management applications [a plurality of alarm managers 260 to 263 that run in an application program of the alarm management processor 220 in order to support distributed alarm management of plural

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operators, paragraph (0034), p. 4; alarm management processor 220 operates according to an alarm management application program being a daemon application program, paragraph (0032), p. 4] for managing a host system including a second system management application [alarm managers 260 to 263; paragraph (0034), p. 4], determining if an unprocessed record is present in a system event log [alarm managers 260 to 263 read the alarm information, paragraph (0045), p. 5; Examiner notes that by reading the alarm information, the alarm manager determines that an unprocessed record is present and when the listener table is empty it is determined that an unprocessed record is not present] by obtaining exclusive use of a system event log [the alarm management processor 220 sets the listener tables 250 to 253 to a lock mode so that the alarm managers 260 to 263 cannot access the listener tables 250 to 253 during recording the alarm information; paragraph (0044), p. 3 – 4] in a host system [alarm management host computer 100, Fig. 1; paragraph (0028), p. 3] stored in a non-volatile memory location [alarm management host computer 200 secure memory space for use as listener tables; paragraph (0038), p. 4];

the first system management application [alarm manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode; paragraph (0054), p. 5] obtaining an identifier [alarm identifier] corresponding to an unprocessed [uncleared alarm] record [alarm management processor 220...assigns an unused alarm identifier to the alarm information, and stores the alarm information in the uncleared alarm table 243...In step S150, the alarm management processor 220 stores the alarm information in the listener tables 250 to 253; paragraphs (0041) and (0042), p. 4]; and

the first system management application [alarm manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode; paragraph (0054), p. 5] determining the next unprocessed record [alarm managers 260 to 263 read the alarm information, display or print the alarm information, and clear or remove the alarm information from the listener tables 250 to 253 to prevent re-reading of the alarm information; paragraph (0045), p. 5].

6. Although Chun teaches the invention substantially, Chun does not specifically teach preventing a second application from accessing a system event log concurrently.

However, Van Fleet teaches a first and second system management application [chain of threads in the Event List waiting for the representative event to occur; col. 5, lines 30 – 42], first system management application obtaining exclusive use of a system event log [each Event List Anchor 302 is used as a lock for the event list; col. 4, lines 50 - 61] and preventing the second system management application from accessing the system event log concurrently [col. 4, line 52- col. 5, line 6].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of preventing a second application from accessing a system event log concurrently as taught by Van Fleet to the invention of Chun because this provides serial access to the event list [col. 1, line 27 – 32 of Van Fleet].

7. As to claim 4, Chun teaches requesting exclusive use of the system event log [step S12, alarm manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode, reads the alarm information from listener table #0001, Fig. 5; paragraph (0054), p. 5], and

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receiving an acknowledgement that exclusive use is granted [sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode].

8. As to claims 6 and 7, Chun teaches issuing a lock request to a lock agent application [the alarm management processor 220 sets the listener tables 250 to 253 to a lock mode so that the alarm managers 260 to 263 cannot access the listener tables 250 to 253 during recording the alarm information; paragraph (0044), p. 3 – 4] that runs on the host system [alarm management host computer 100, Fig. 1; paragraph (0028), p. 3].

9. As to claim 11, Chun teaches processing the unprocessed record [reads the alarm information from listener table #0001] and releasing exclusive use of the system event log [manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode, reads the alarm information from listener table #0001, and then releases it from the lock mode; paragraph (0054), p. 5].

10. As to claim 12, Chun teaches determining if there are additional records to process [alarm managers 260 to 263 read the alarm information, display or print the alarm information, and clear or remove the alarm information from the listener tables 250 to 253 to prevent re-reading of the alarm information; paragraph (0045), p. 5].

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11. As to claim 13, Chun teaches storing the identifier corresponding to the unprocessed record in non-volatile memory [assigns an unused alarm identifier to the alarm information, and stores the alarm information in the uncleared alarm table 243...In step S150, the alarm management processor 220 stores the alarm information in the listener tables 250 to 253; paragraphs (0041) and (0042), p. 4].

12. As to claim 15, Chun as modified teaches exclusive use of a system event log [the alarm management processor 220 sets the listener tables 250 to 253 to a lock mode so that the alarm managers 260 to 263 cannot access the listener tables 250 to 253 during recording the alarm information; paragraph (0044), p. 3 – 4 of Chun];

receiving a request for the exclusive use of a system event log in a host system from a set [a plurality of alarm managers 260 to 263 that run in an application program of the alarm management processor 220 in order to support distributed alarm management of plural operators, paragraph (0034), p. 4; alarm management processor 220 operates according to an alarm management application program being a daemon application program, paragraph (0032), p. 4 of Chun] of system management applications [step S12, alarm manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode, reads the alarm information from listener table #0001, Fig. 5; paragraph (0054), p. 5 of Chun];

granting exclusive use of the system event log to the requesting system management application if no other system management application maintains a lock on the system event log [manager #0001 sets listener table #0001 to the lock mode,

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reads the alarm information from listener table #0001, and then releases it from the lock mode; paragraph (0054), p. 5 of Chun], the requesting system management application to read the system event log as stored in a non-volatile storage location [alarm management host computer 200 secure memory space for use as listener tables; paragraph (0038), p. 4 of Chun] to determine if unprocessed records are present [alarm managers 260 to 263 read the alarm information, paragraph (0045), p. 5 of Chun; Examiner notes that by reading the alarm information, the alarm manager determines that an unprocessed record is present and when the listener table is empty it is determined that an unprocessed record is not present], to process the unprocessed records and to indicate that the unprocessed records have been processed [At step 612, a new first Thread.sub.-- ID, if required, is retrieved from the event list chain, and the method proceeds to step 614. At step 614, the first Thread.sub.-- ID is synchronously stored in the Event List Anchor 302, and the method proceeds to end at step 616; col. 6, lines 30 – 52 of Van Fleet]; and

denying use of the system event log to the requesting system management application if another application maintains a lock on the system event log [reason for alarm manager #0001 to set listener table #0001 to the lock mode is to prevent the alarm management processor 220 from accessing listener table #0001 during reading the alarm information; paragraph (0054), p. 5 of Chun].

13. As to claim 17, Chun teaches determining if exclusive use of the system event log is locked by another application [reason for the alarm management processor to set

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listener table #0001 to the lock mode is to prevent alarm manager #0001 corresponding to listener table #0001 from accessing listener table #0001 during recording of the alarm information; paragraph (0054), p. 5].

14. As to claim 21, Chun teaches receiving a request to release the lock on the exclusive use of the system event log in the host system from a system management application [If the recording operation is completed, the alarm management processor 220 releases the listener tables 250 to 253 from the lock mode to allow the alarm managers 260 to 263 to access the listener tables 250 to 253; paragraph (0044), p. 4 - 5], and releasing the lock on the exclusive use of the system event log [alarm management processor 220 releases the listener tables 250 to 253 from the lock mode].

15. As to claim 25, this is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 1; note the rejection to claim 1 above, which also meets this system claim.

16. As to claim 30, this is a system claim that corresponds to product claim 15; note the rejection to claim 15 above, which also meets this system claim.

17. **Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 – 10, 14, 16, and 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chun and Van Fleet further in view of “Intelligent Platform Management Interface Specification v1.0” [p. 1 – 13, 23, 69 and 93 – 103; hereinafter “IPMI1.0,” cited in the previous office action].**

18. As to claim 2, Chun as modified teaches alarm management for a network management system [paragraph (0008), p. 1 of Chun], but does not specifically teach an Intelligent Platform Management Interface system event log.

However, IPMI1.0 teaches the Intelligent Platform Management Interface architecture [Section 1.5.1, p. 4] and a system event log [Section 1.5.6, p. 7 and Section 18, p. 93].

19. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of the Intelligent Platform Management Interface and system event log as taught by IPMI1.0 to the invention of Chun as modified because Intelligent Platform Management allows inventory, monitoring, logging, and recovery control functions to be available independent of the main processors, BIOS, and operating system [Section 1.5.1, 1st paragraph, p. 4 of IPMI1.0].

20. As to claim 3, Chun as modified teaches the unprocessed record [Next SEL Record ID; p. 97, Section 18.5 of IPMI1.0] is a record of an IPMI event [SEL Event Records; p. 101, Sections 19 and 19.1 of IPMI1.0].

21. As to claim 5, Chun as modified teaches accessing the Intelligent Platform Management Interface Last Software Process Event ID storage location [GET LAST ENTRY, Table 18-5; p. 97, Section 18.5 of IPMI1.0].

22. As to claims 8 – 10, Chun as modified teaches the one or more system management applications include out-of-band system management applications [out-of-band applications; p. 69, Section 13.6; p. 103, Section 20 of IPMI1.0] and in-band system management applications [in-band access to the IPMI management information; p. 4, Section 1.5.2; p. 5, Fig. 1-1 of IPMI1.0].

23. As to claim 14, Chun as modified teaches storing the identifier corresponding to the unprocessed record in the Intelligent Platform Management Interface Last Software Process Event ID storage location [records are added on after the last record in the SEL; p. 97, Section 18.6 of IPMI1.0].

24. As to claims 16 and 18 – 20, these are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2 and 8 – 10 above.

Conclusion


25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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